

Curbside Organics Program Waste Bylaw Change

ISSUE

The City of Saskatoon's (City) current Waste Bylaw, 2004, has several limitations, restricting the ability to effectively implement the residential Curbside Organics Program. This request is to repeal the existing Bylaw No. 8310 and replace it with a new waste bylaw to establish a more comprehensive regulatory framework for the City's waste diversion program.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities & Corporate Services recommend to City Council:

1. That Bylaw No. 8310, The Waste Bylaw, 2004, be replaced with a new waste bylaw as proposed in this report; and
2. That the City Solicitor be requested to prepare the new waste bylaw.

BACKGROUND

The Waste Bylaw, 2004 (Bylaw) was passed 17 years ago, and the City's waste management programs have undergone significant change since then. As a result, the Bylaw has been amended many times. Because further considerable amendments are being proposed in this report, the Administration suggests that the existing Bylaw be repealed and replaced with a new bylaw. This will allow for housekeeping changes, including re-organization of the contents, modernization, and consistent use of language.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

To achieve the City's target of 70% waste diversion from the Saskatoon Regional Waste Management Centre (Landfill), the Bylaw needs to be updated. The Bylaw update will reflect the regulatory framework for the upcoming waste programs such as the Curbside Organics Program, the Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (ICI) sector-related amendments, and some housekeeping items.

The following components are proposed to be addressed through an updated waste bylaw:

Organics Program Amendments

Most of the changes described under this heading would likely be captured in a new part dedicated to the collection of organic material, similar to Part VII in the current Bylaw for recyclable material.

Update Definitions and Terminologies

This proposed change aims to update and add new definitions and terminologies related to the organics program, which are included and referenced in the appropriate

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sections. Some of the definitions to be updated are “roll-out cart”, “organic material container” and “waste container”.

Add Home Composting to be Done Inside the Property Line

The Administration is proposing to specify that home composting must be done inside the property line.

Home composting is currently allowed in the City. However, no provisions describe how home composting is to be performed in the Bylaw. Some residents compost in the back lane (public right-of-way), while others compost on their private property.

The purpose of this proposed change is to have a provision in place that lays out the requirements for home composting on private property only. Under this proposed change, home composting on the public right-of-way (back lane) will not be permitted.

Amend Schedule G on Acceptable and Nonacceptable Organic Materials

The purpose of this proposed amendment is to update Schedule “G” Organic Material list (Acceptable and Unacceptable) to meet the operational requirements of the organics program.

Update Mandatory Separation of Waste to Include Green Carts

The Administration is proposing a provision to mandate proper waste separation for green containers.

In the current Bylaw, recyclable material must only be placed in a recycling container. A similar provision is being proposed for organic waste placed in the green container to provide clear guidance, expectations and responsibilities for residents concerning separating and placing their waste in the appropriate waste container as required in the waste diversion strategy.

This provision would also assist in enforcing individuals’ behaviours who continually contaminate their green cart with inappropriate waste material.

ICI Related Amendments

Add Detailed Bin Enclosure and Bin Construction Standards

The Administration is proposing adding a detailed enclosure and construction standard for bins.

The purpose behind this proposed change is to ensure multi-unit locations build a bin enclosure and appropriate bin design for waste collection that is compatible with the collection equipment, as it becomes onerous to update the Bylaw with the frequently changing industry standards.

The Administration proposes that the General Manager of Utilities and Environment be provided the discretion to set the bin enclosure and construction standards while ensuring the latest version of the specifications are available on the City's website.

Adding that Sharp or Pointed Objects be Contained in a Puncture-proof, Sealable Container

The Administration is proposing adding a requirement to contain all sharp or pointed objects.

This proposed change aims to reduce the health and safety risk to the civic employees and the public handling this waste. Adding a provision to use a puncture-proof or sealable container would mitigate the hazards posed by sharp or pointed objects.

Housekeeping Amendments

Add a Requirement that the Waste Container Must be Equipped with a Cover

The Administration proposes adding that the waste container must be equipped with a cover when not in use to prevent the waste from being dispersed by weather elements.

The City frequently receives complaints from residents residing in or adjacent to construction areas around blowing construction waste material disturbance. Multiple City resources are regularly mobilized to remove this debris, and communication has also been sent out to contractors and/or developers to cover their waste bins.

The Administration proposes that users of construction waste bins be mandated to cover the bins when not in use.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

At this time, there is no additional financial implication associated with approval of the proposed recommendations. Sufficient funds are available for the program development and implementation.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

A comprehensive communication and education promotion strategy will be developed as part of the Curbside Organics Program implementation.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval by City Council of the proposed changes, the City Solicitor's Office will draft the necessary Bylaw, integrating relevant aspects of the existing Waste Bylaw. City Council's consideration of this Bylaw is anticipated in Fall 2022.

The following is the timeline for the Bylaw Change and attached in Appendix 1 is the implementation plan for the Curbside Organics Program.

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| Date | Milestone |
|-----------|---|
| 2022 – Q1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft Bylaw updates• Develop communication and education plan |
| 2022 – Q3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval report to Council for Waste Bylaw changes• Finalize communication and educational materials |
| 2022 – Q4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Customer service training on approved Waste Bylaw• Commence implementation of the communication and educational strategy |
| 2023 – Q2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enforcement begins for the curbside organics program |

APPENDIX

1. Curbside Organics Program Implementation Plan

Report Approval

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